

24 June 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Support Branch

SUBJECT: Intelligence Terminology

REFERENCE: (a) Security Disposition Form re Planning Directive
No. 6 re Subject.

1. As requested in reference (a) Intelligence Terms listed in the ANSCOL Dictionary have been reviewed and are concurred in except as noted below.

2. Exceptions:

a. J.C.S. Definition

Compromise. The capture or recovery by salvage, theft, photography, or cryptanalytic solution of cryptographic material, plans, orders, and the like by unauthorized persons.

Recommended Definition

Compromise. To endanger security by permitting unauthorized persons to gain special or classified information or matter. Security may be compromised by enemy cryptanalysis, capture, theft, salvage, photography and other forms of espionage, or by careless conversation or handling of classified information by own personnel.

Comment. Compromise is not the actual loss of information or material but the effect of that loss on the security of the code, situation, or operation involved.

b. J.C.S. Definition

Intelligence, basic. Intelligence produced in times of peace and war for use in planning possible or actual operations.

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Recommendation. Eliminate this definition as unnecessary. As stated it includes all intelligence — which is previously defined in more detail. The term is not believed to be in common usage. No two of five people contacted had the same idea of what it might mean.

c. J.C.S. Definition

Information, essential elements of. That information about the enemy, the terrain, hydrographic conditions, or meteorological conditions in territory not under our control which a commander needs in a particular situation in order to make a sound decision, to conduct a maneuver, to avoid being surprised, or to formulate details of a plan of operation. The essential elements may also include information requested by higher, adjacent, supporting, or attached units.

Recommended Definition

Information, essential elements of. That information about the capabilities and intentions of the enemy, the terrain, etc.

3. An additional definition is recommended, i.e.,

Information, National essential elements of. That information which is required by the Federal Government to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission related to the national security.

Comment. This is taken from the definition included in the recommended directive to establish NNEI.


Acting Chief, Intelligence Branch

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